

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 OPR-02 SCCT-01

USSS-00 SY-05 CU-02 OC-06 CCO-00 DHA-02 OMB-01 SCA-01

SCS-03 (ISO) W

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R 242200Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1512

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: SPORADIC INCIDENTS INTERRUPT POLITICAL CALM

1. THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND SUSPENSION OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEES HAVE SERVED TO IMPOSE OVERALL POLITICAL AND LABOR PEACE ON PERU. DAILY LIFE APPROXIMATES NORMAL UNDER THE REDUCED 1:00 A.M. TO 5:00 A.M. CURFEW (SECURITY FORCES DO RIGOROUSLY ENFORCE THE CURFEW AND INTERIOR MINISTER CISNEROS RECENTLY NOTED THAT 6 OR 7 PERSONS HAVE BEEN KILLED FOR FAILURE TO HEED CURFEW REGULATIONS). THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN PUBLIC ESTABLISHMENTS IS AGAIN AUTHORIZED (THAT GOP ORDER WAS HONORED IN THE BREACH).

2. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT POLITICAL CALM AND LABOR PEACE HAVE LARGELY BEEN A PRODUCT OF GOP SECURITY MEASURES AND THE USE OF SELECTIVE DETENTION. THE GOP, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS ATTEMPTED TO DISSUADE TRADE UNIONS FROM STRIKES, WHICH ARE ILLEGAL DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. RECALCITRANT LABOR LEADERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED. WHEN THE FAR-LEFT UNION AT THE GOVERNMENT'S CENTROMIN MINING COMPLEX ATTEMPTED AN AUGUST 16 STRIKE, POLICE ARRESTED UNION LEADERS AND OCCUPIED UNION HEAD-
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QUARTERS (LIMA 7444). THE GOP THEN DECLARED A CONTRACT

SETTLEMENT. A LATER MEETING BETWEEN LABOR MINISTER GALINDO AND WORKER REPRESENTATIVES RESULTED IN A GOP PLEDGE THAT DETAINED UNION LEADERS WOULD NOT BE SEPARATED FROM THEIR EMPLOYMENT AND A UNION AGREEMENT TO CALL OFF AN AUGUST 23 PROTEST STRIKE.

3. STUDENT OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES BUT THE STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS EFFECTIVELY KEPT STUDENTS OFF THE STREETS. BECAUSE OF WHAT THE GOP TERMED "GRAVE INCIDENTS" AT THE NATIONAL ENGINEERING UNIVERSITY IN LATE JULY AND AUGUST WHICH "PARALYZED ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES", POLICE RAIDED THE CAMPUS AUGUST 22. ACCORDING TO THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, 127 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED AND "ARMS, EXPLOSIVES AND SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA WERE UNCOVERED". THE MINISTRY CLAIMED THERE WERE NO INJURIES, ALTHOUGH STUDENTS WILL LIKELY DISPUTE THAT CONTENTION.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE ARREST OF STUDENT AND LABOR LEADERS, POLICE DETENTION OF POLITICAL OR PRESS PERSONALITIES BECOMES PUBLIC FROM TIME TO TIME. FOR EXAMPLE, THE STAFF OF THE MILITANT LEFTIST PERIODICAL

MARKA (CLOSED JULY 2 ALONG WITH OTHER MAGAZINES) PUBLICLY PROTESTED THE ALLEGED ARREST AUGUST 17 OF MARKA DIRECTOR CARLOS URRUTIA.

5. THERE HAVE BEEN ISOLATED INCIDENTS OF SABOTAGE. PERUVIAN INVESTIGATIONS POLICE (PIP) TOLD THE CHARGE AUGUST 20, AND GOP LATER REVEALED TO PRESS, THAT THE RAILROAD TRACK BETWEEN HUANCAYO AND HUANCABELICA HAD BEEN DYNAMITED AUGUST 20, CAUSING A TRAIN DERAILMENT.

6. THE GOP APPEARS TO BE CONFIDENT THAT THE CIVILIAN SECURITY SITUATION IS UNDER CONTROL, BUT IT MAY BE LESS CONFIDENT THAT POLITICAL CALM AND LABOR PEACE CAN BE MAINTAINED ONCE THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IS LIFTED. ANOTHER 30-DAY EXTENSION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY MAY BE DECREED SEPTEMBER 1. MANY INFORMED POLITICAL OBSERVERS FEEL THAT THE CURFEW, AT LEAST, WILL CONTINUE ON A REDUCED BASIS FOR SOME MONTHS.
SMITH

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